

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 23, 2017

Multidisciplinary Approach May Help Vets with Pulmonary Hypertension and Coexisting Conditions

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A paper published Tuesday in the print version of “Pulmonary Circulation” by a Providence VA Medical Center researcher suggests that a multidisciplinary approach may improve outcomes for Veterans with pulmonary hypertension and coexisting cardiopulmonary conditions.

Pulmonary hypertension is a type of high blood pressure affecting the lungs, which can be fatal, and is often associated with other disorders affecting the heart and lungs, especially in older adults.

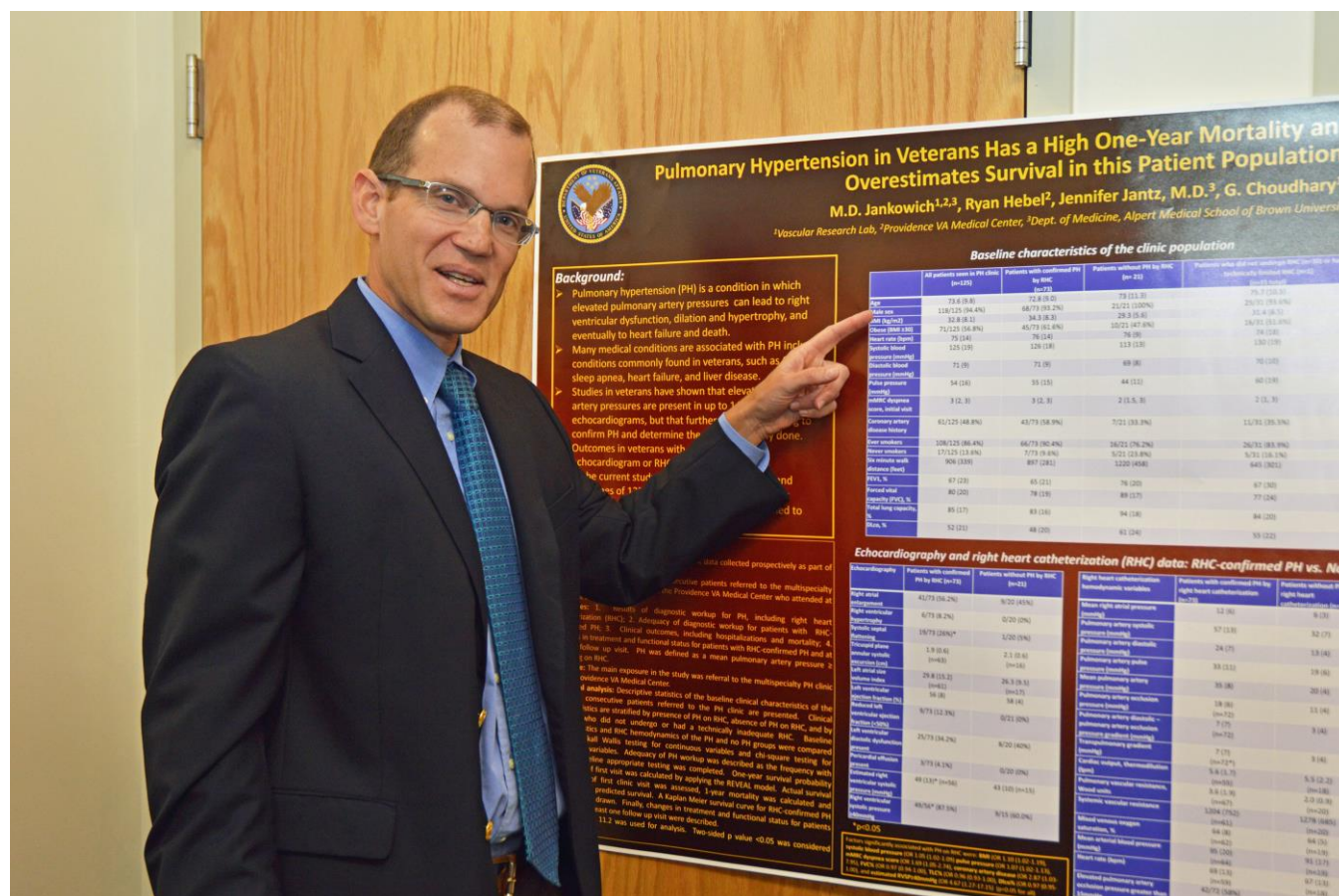
“A multispecialty approach to a suspected case of pulmonary hypertension is recommended, but there are few data available on the adherence to guidelines or outcomes in such patients,” said Dr. Matthew Jankowich, a researcher at Providence VAMC and the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and lead author of the paper.

The study evaluated the clinical characteristics, outcomes and prognoses of Veteran patients with suspected pulmonary hypertension who are receiving care from the Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic at the Providence VAMC. It revealed a high prevalence of coexisting cardiopulmonary conditions in these patients. The patients underwent evaluation according to established guidelines for pulmonary hypertension and, although the patients showed a high rate of hospitalizations and mortality, supportive care for these patients improved following a comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation. The paper is available online at: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2045893217726063>.

“The results are encouraging, but further research is needed to determine if the approach can improve outcomes in the larger Veteran population with pulmonary hypertension,” said Dr. Gaurav Choudhary, the senior author for the paper and chief of the Research and Development Service at the Providence VAMC.

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Dr. Matthew Jankowich, a researcher at Providence VA Medical Center and the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, uses a project poster at the Providence VAMC Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, to explain his study regarding a multidisciplinary approach to evaluating Veterans with pulmonary hypertension and coexisting cardiopulmonary conditions. Jankowich published a paper in “Pulmonary Circulation” Aug. 22, 2017, that suggested a multidisciplinary approach may improve outcomes. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

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